



We came. We saw. We ate.



trollcatz

 trollcatz

<https://trollcatz.livejournal.com/>

2008-07-26 17:14:00

I used to know how to say that in Latin.

Gina and I had an unashamedly great time at *Wall-E*, because we are both eight years old. *Someone* who shall remain nameless but whose alter ego has both long ears *and* buck teeth thought it would be better if the {spoiler} had turned out to have died off. (Misanthrope.) Someone else, whose alter ego has much pointier teeth (or a bill, depending) critiqued the science. It was necessary to flick grains of rice at this person, until our server requested that I stop. Another someone else, who shall remain alter egoless, discussed artificial intelligence and the definition of slavery.

This is moviegoing with my peeps. It is wonderful.

Moviegoing with Gina was strange and interesting. She has autism, or autism spectrum disorder, or PDD-NOS; at eight it can be hard to tell. But she was diagnosed at sixteen months, her IQ is probably well above average, and her parents and her doctors have done all manner of inventive things to make her life as normal and sensible as possible. Still, she sits quiet in the theater when everyone else is laughing, staring at the screen, one foot swinging in an unvarying rhythm.

I sat next to her while Wall-E turned trash into cubes, surrounded by the evidence that he'd done it millions of times before that, each time just the same. I watched him delight in his routine, and be terrified when it was interrupted. I watched Eve not be able to tell the difference between her programming and her inclination. I watched the little cleaning robot scrub out Wall-E's tracks over and over, tidying, putting things in order.

And I realized, of course she wanted to see this movie. These are her heroes. The humans are the aliens.



Thank you

This is Patricia Andreoli, wife of Daphne Worth, who you all knew as Trollcatz. Daphne died

...And there goes the weekend

But hey, we got a day and a half of this one! And I got to sleep in for two whole mornings. Too bad

As a law

enforcement
professional--

54 comments



 saaba

July 27 2008, 01:39:22 UTC

COLLAPSE

A young man who is very dear to me has Asperger's.

He's in his early twenties now and attending college part time and working.

But oh my *dog* the hassles we had getting him there. His diagnosis seemed to change every year or two, along with the IEP (the school district's plan for his education). Meanwhile, the family endured countless drive-by parentings- not all of them well-meant.

As he got older things got better because the system got better and the public became somewhat more educated about autism.

Talking to his mother recently, I said it must be like being Tully in the novel The Pride of Chanur by C J Cherryh. His life is full of people who understand each other and the rules very well but he can only really communicate with effort. And at what seem to him to be random intervals people get upset with him for no reason he can see. He's not *stupid*, he's marooned in an alien culture.

With hard work and luck and help he's been able to learn to get along with us neurotypicals, and we with him. And he's smart and good hearted- I've never known him to be deliberately mean.

His best friend is in a wheelchair, has a seizure disorder and is legally blind. They met at school years ago. And when someone once tried to praise my young friend for being so nice to the boy in the wheelchair he was completely bewildered. 'He's my friend,' he said. I told him that sometimes people weren't willing to be friends with someone who is too different. He just shook his head at me and said 'People are so weird.'



 trollcatz

July 27 2008, 16:33:03 UTC

COLLAPSE

Yeah. Until recently, getting Gina an education and keeping up with her treatment program and making sure she had a normal social and home life was almost a full-time job for her parents. It's helped that there's the entire Andreoli family, including the younger members, taking part. Gina understands a lot of what's going on with her, and will explain it to people when she needs to. The whole anthropologist-on-Mars metaphor is such a good one.

L

 [**saoba**](#)[July 28 2008, 07:01:07 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

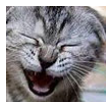
Until recently, getting Gina an education and keeping up with her treatment program and making sure she had a normal social and home life was almost a full-time job for her parents

We found that my going to IEP meetings with his mother was really useful. Not because I was having any brilliant insights but because his mother would say something, the assembled teachers and specialists would ignore her and I would say 'As his mother just said *suggested test* has already been administered and is in his file'. And there'd be a moment of paper shuffling and 'oh there it is'. She'd report some behavior or progress, they wouldn't believe her. I'd repeat the report word for word, so they accepted it and took it into account.

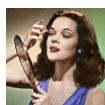
It was incredibly frustrating but there's a section of the education specialist community that doesn't seem to value parent input. And autistic kids can have a terribly hard time without an advocate. Luckily he got a useful diagnosis when he was about eleven and was put in a program with a super staff. It was such a gift not to have to fight with his school any more.

It's a hard thing to be the outlier in the herd. One of the great things that happened for my friend was he turned out to be really good at- of all things- bowling. Good enough to be on the high school team and letter. And I can't help but think it was pretty good for the kids on his team (and their opponents) to learn first hand that one of the special ed kids had talents and skills that equaled or outshone their own.

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 [**trollcatz**](#)[July 27 2008, 16:36:25 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

Oh, totally. It was tons of fun. Just be prepared to want all the toys. (Note I did not say "for the two-year-old to want all the toys." *g*)

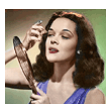
 [**Ometotchtli**](#)[July 27 2008, 16:02:25 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

Come on. It would totally have been better without the {spoilers}. Tell me who deserved to inherit the planet, huh?

 [**trollcatz**](#)[July 27 2008, 16:09:23 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)


Well, your point--believing that pizza grows on shrubs and that stuff you're done with will magically disappear is not exactly great preparation for stewardship--is difficult to argue with.

L

 [**Ometotchtli**](#)[July 27 2008, 16:11:14 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

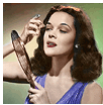
And Platypus's notes on skeletal atrophy and major organ failure? Huh?




 [trollcatz](#)

[July 27 2008, 16:14:03 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

Gina was kind of into that. Us eight-year-olds dig on gross medical details.



 [Ometotchtli](#)

[July 27 2008, 16:15:09 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

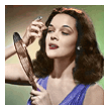
I bet Jadis did when she was eight.



 [trollcatz](#)

[July 27 2008, 16:16:03 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

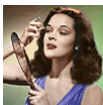
Gah! Don't say that!



 [Ometotchtli](#)

[July 27 2008, 16:16:46 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

Dude, Gina is already way better at normal human interaction.



 [Ometotchtli](#)

[July 27 2008, 16:22:54 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

Platypus can argue his own theory. Mine, which is mine, is that in a month all the {spoilers} die off, leaving the place to the robots and the roaches, who are smart and long-lived enough to spend the thousand years necessary to restore the ecosystem and turn the place into a paradise planet. Also, they create their own robot musicals. In which {spoilers} are the bad guys.



 [trollcatz](#)

[July 27 2008, 21:24:24 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

Well, if Platypus doesn't show up to argue it pretty soon, we're going to have to draft someone from the audience. *g*



 [trollcatz](#)

[July 28 2008, 05:07:18 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

Hey, Platypus, I know you said you were bagging LJ. But turn your phone on? Yes?

 [cvillette](#)


[July 28 2008, 11:55:14 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

You have my message by now, yes? Sorry--didn't occur to me you would miss me before this morning, and I had the AOP turned off last night.

Just needed to vanish for a couple of days, so I went to see a friend in Toronto. Coming home tonight. I'll see you tomorrow or Wednesday, depending on how dead I am tomorrow, but right now I'm going to go crash.

::insert sound effect of squealing tires and buckling metal here::



 [trollcatz](#)

[July 29 2008, 02:10:51 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

Hey! You be nice to the Blue Beetle. No crashing!

Dude, if you want Sundays off on best-man duty, you gotta file the paperwork in advance. *g* (Joke.) I actually did call you last night, though, to find out how many people a carrot cake will reasonably serve. People always serve beautiful cake that tastes like sugared styrofoam at weddings. Wouldn't it be cool to have *real* cake, that people would go back for seconds on?



 [cvillette](#)

[July 29 2008, 03:05:27 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

I'm home, I'm home. I didn't even get pulled over in NY.

You wanta real cake? I will totally make you a real cake. You tell me how many people you need to feed, and I will make it happen.

Carrot cake! Food processor! Woo!



 [trollcatz](#)

[July 29 2008, 04:01:12 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

SRSLY? You would make the cake? Because that would be the bestest cake, and not all too sweet and kinda boring, which is what bakeries make. OMG, you would make the cake?



 [cvillette](#)

[July 29 2008, 11:09:59 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

What's the point in getting married if you don't have a friend to bake you a cake?

Are you going to want to do the freeze-part-for-the-first-anniversary thing? Because it matters to the recipe.




 [trollcatz](#)

[July 29 2008, 18:05:12 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

Good cake should be eaten, not saved! (Besides, maybe by our first anniversary we'll be planning a Celebration Of Legal Marriage. Who knows?)

I know there's a list of traditional desserts for anniversaries. Let's see: 1st, ice cream sundaes. 2nd, brownies. 3rd, cheesecake. 4th, baklava...

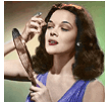


 [cvillette](#)

[July 29 2008, 18:10:36 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

5th, floating island. 6th, tiramisu...



 [Ometotchtli](#)

[July 29 2008, 18:15:28 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

7th, strawberry shortcake. 8th, zabaglione. 9th, chocolate mousse. 10th, apricot pie...



 [eljefe](#)


[July 29 2008, 18:21:41 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

We saved the top cake as per tradition and froze it. . .

And it's still lurking in the in-laws freezer, many years later. *laughing*




 [trollcatz](#)

[July 29 2008, 18:55:45 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

See what I mean? Eat the cake! Do not let it languish unloved in the freezer. Nommed cake is not a lie!



 [edschweppe](#)

[July 30 2008, 00:51:28 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

(Besides, maybe by our first anniversary we'll be planning a Celebration Of Legal Marriage. Who knows?)

Heck, you could come up to Massachusetts and have a for-real Legal Marriage, without even having to wait a year!

The House today voted 118 to 35 to repeal a 1913 state law that prevents gay and lesbian couples from most other states from marrying in Massachusetts.

The measure, which the Senate passed earlier this month, will head to the desk of Governor Deval Patrick, who is expected to sign it into law. The move will clear the way for out-of-state couples to marry in Massachusetts, making it the second state to allow gay and lesbian couples to marry regardless of their place of residence.

More details are available in this [boston.com](#) article.



 [trollcatz](#)

[July 29 2008, 18:06:10 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

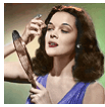
Also, have I mentioned that I <3 you?



 [cvillette](#)

[July 29 2008, 18:11:17 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

I<3U2



 [Ometotchtli](#)

[July 29 2008, 04:06:47 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

Honey, I get pulled over in NY, and when in NY I drive like a brutha in a red Ferarri with the trunk full of automatic rifles. What did you do, get out and push?



 [cvillette](#)

[July 29 2008, 11:08:50 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

I hid behind a semi.



 [eljefe](#)

[July 29 2008, 17:32:49 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

Besides, no one suspects a bug. Even if you see one moving fast, the brain refuses to register it as being possible. *grin* You just have to watch out above 80mph, cause the front end gets a little floaty.



 [cvillette](#)

[July 29 2008, 18:07:06 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

Where by "a little" he means, put some cinder blocks in there first if you know what's good for you.



 [eljefe](#)

[July 29 2008, 18:33:12 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

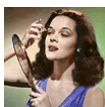
Sandbags. They don't shift as easily. In case you need to make, um, sudden lane changes.



 [cvillette](#)

[July 29 2008, 18:34:35 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

That's why you wire the cinderblocks down. ;-)




 [Ometotchtli](#)

[July 29 2008, 18:53:09 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

Am I going to have to separate you two?



 [trollcatz](#)

[July 29 2008, 17:59:30 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

Bet that works a lot better when you're not on a *skateboard*. *g*



[cvillette](#)

[July 29 2008, 18:12:36 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

Pbthpbthpbth.



[inaurolillium](#)

[July 30 2008, 01:10:23 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

It looks like your cake is covered, and by a better, closer, and more enthusiastic baker than I, but if I can come up with something that will survive shipping, can I send you something decorative and tasty?



[trinker](#)

[August 1 2008, 22:42:00 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

Edible party favors for the guests?



[inaurolillium](#)

[July 28 2008, 06:44:34 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

Nah. The robots are all programmed with Asimov's Laws, so they *have* to bail the {spoilers} out. They'll survive, but only because the 'bots make it work, and slowly, the 'bots will become their overlords, as WALL-E learns to reprogram the others with his own idiosyncrasies.



[edschweppe](#)

[July 27 2008, 20:21:53 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

I used to know how to say that in Latin.

I believe it's something like "Veni. Vici. Nomnomnomnom." But I never took Latin, so I may have the declinations wrong.

I am glad that a great time was had by all. Since we're talking about *Wall-E*, the having of a great time does not surprise me in the least.



[trollcatz](#)

[July 27 2008, 21:18:21 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

Pig latn. Do not want. I CN HAZ CAT LATN.




[inaurolillium](#)

[July 28 2008, 06:45:45 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

Have the *conugations* wrong. You decline nouns, you conjugate verbs. As for your cat latn, I shall ignore it.



 [trollcatz](#)

[July 28 2008, 14:38:06 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

Or merely *decline* to notice it. *g*



 [inaurolillium](#)

[July 28 2008, 19:13:08 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

Gah!

I haven't been awake long enough to find a proper reply to that...



[edschweppe](#)

[July 29 2008, 02:03:13 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

Now that's the sort of punditry that I **like** to see coming out of DeeCee.



[edschweppe](#)

[July 29 2008, 02:04:12 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

(points to "never took Latin" line above)



[inaurolillium](#)

[July 28 2008, 07:20:42 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

Also, *vici* means "I conquered." You want *vidi*.



[inaurolillium](#)

[July 27 2008, 20:34:11 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

Venimus, vidimus, voravimus. (Ooo, I even managed to find a v-word for it. Means "to eat greedily". First personal singular version of the sentence would be *Veni, vidi, voravi.*)

I loved Wall-E, too, even though I had the same problems with it that Wabbit and Chaz had. Plus, you know, despite the mention of low-grav problems, that was pretty obviously a full-grav environment or something close to it. That one scene at the end wouldn't have worked, otherwise. And the whole tilting thing doesn't work at all.



[Ometotchtli](#)

[July 27 2008, 21:15:51 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

Was it just me, or was that totally a *Poseidon Adventure* reference?



[edschweppe](#)

[July 27 2008, 21:51:10 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

Either *Poseidon Adventure* or *Titanic*.




[inaurolillium](#)

[July 28 2008, 06:40:17 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

Well, *yeah*, but that doesn't make the physics work any better.




 [trollcatz](#)

[July 27 2008, 21:20:50 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

"We came, we saw, we *devoured*" is even better! Hah!


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 [Ometotchtli](#)

[July 29 2008, 01:39:38 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

And Moe would DO IT. Because Moe is made of win.

 [nebula99](#)

[July 30 2008, 13:55:19 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

We saw this today. I loved Moe.

I would have appreciated the less happy potential ending but at then my kids would have disowned me for crying.

Thank you

This is Patricia Andreoli, wife of Daphne Worth, who you all knew as Trollcatz. Daphne died

...And there goes the weekend

But hey, we got a day and a half of this one! And I got to sleep in for two whole mornings. Too bad

As a law

enforcement
professional--